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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/590,421	09/08/2008	David Ray Filpula	213.1204-PCT-US	5480
20311	7590	10/21/2009	EXAMINER	
LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP 475 PARK AVENUE SOUTH 15TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10016				HISSONG, BRUCE D
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1646				
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/21/2009	ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

[info@lmiplaw.com](mailto:info@lmiplaw.com)

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/590,421	FILPULA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Bruce D. Hissong, Ph.D.	1646	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2009.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                  2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-54 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

**A.** Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

**Group I**, claim(s) 1-43, drawn to a composition comprising IFN conjugated to a polyalkylene polymer and methods of making said composition.

**Group II**, claim(s) 44-47, drawn to a method of administering the composition of Group I.

**Group III**, claim(s) 48-54, drawn to a method of preparing a polyalkylene oxide-protein conjugate.

**B.** The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The first claimed invention fails to share a special technical feature with the other claims. PCT rules define a special technical feature as a feature that makes a contribution over the art. Claim 1 has no such special technical feature in view of Drstrup (US 20030138403 - cited in the IDS received on 8/11/2009). Claim 1 is drawn to a composition comprising interferon (IFN) conjugated to a polyalkylene oxide polymer having a molecular weight of at least about 12 kDa, and optionally comprising a surfactant, an excipient, and a buffer. Drstrup teaches a composition comprising IFN- $\beta$  conjugated to polyethylene glycol with a molecular weight of 12 kDa, wherein said composition also comprises a sodium phosphate or sodium acetate buffer, the excipient mannitol, and the surfactant Tween 20 (see

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Example 5). Because Drstrup specifically teaches a composition meeting all limitations of claim 1, claim 1 cannot share a special technical feature with the other claims.

**C** Additionally, group I is subject to further restriction. It is noted that the claims are drawn to examination of a large number of structurally distinct linear and branched polyalkylene oxide polymer-containing conjugates. Applicants are required to elect a conjugate comprising a specific linear polyalkylene oxide polymer or a conjugate comprising a specific branched polyalkylene oxide polymer. Furthermore:

1. If electing a conjugate comprising a linear polyalkylene oxide polymer, then Applicants are further required to elect a specific linear polyalkylene oxide polymer, identified by specific "A", R<sub>7</sub>, and "x" variables.
2. If electing a conjugate comprising a branched polyalkylene oxide polymer, then Applicants are further required to elect a specific branched polyalkylene oxide polymer, identified by specific "a", "Z", "R8", "x", "n", and "p" variables.

In order to be fully responsive, applicant is required to further restrict a specific linear polyalkylene oxide polymer or branched polyalkylene oxide polymer. This is NOT an election of species. The claimed polyalkylene oxide polymers are structurally distinct chemical compounds, and are thus deemed to normally constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such polymer is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141. By statute "[i]f two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application, the Commissioner may require the application to be restricted to one of the inventions." 35 U.S.C. 121. Pursuant to this statute, the rules provide that "[i]f two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in a single application, the examiner in his action shall require the applicant....to elect that invention to which his claim shall be restricted." 37 CFR 1.142(a). See also 37 CFR 1.141(a). It is noted that search more than one of the claimed patentably distinct polymers represents a serious burden for the office.

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D. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

1. Buffers selected from: glycine-HCl, acetic acid, sodium acetate, sodium aspartate, sodium citrate, sodium phosphate, and sodium succinate.
2. Excipients selected from: glucose, ribose, galactose, D-mannose, sorbose, fructose, xylulose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, trehalose, raffinose, maltodextrins, dextrans, glycerol, sorbitol, mannitol, and xylitol.
3. Surfactants selected from: polysorbate 80, polysorbate 20, polyethylene glycol.
4. Activated polyethylene glycol selected from those recited in claim 41.
5. A terminal reactive moiety selected from those recited in claim 43.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Species 1 corresponds to claim 7.  
Species 2 corresponds to claim 12.  
Species 3 corresponds to claim 15.  
Species 4 corresponds to claim 41.

Species 5 corresponds to claim 43.

The following claim(s) are generic: 1, 20, 33.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the different species are drawn to chemical compounds comprising different chemical/physical structures.

**E.** The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder. All claims directed to a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

**F.** Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of

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inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

**G.** Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce D. Hissong, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571)272-3324. The examiner can normally be reached M-F from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Nickol, Ph.D., can be reached at (571) 272-0835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Bruce D. Hissong

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/Robert Landsman/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1647